

November 21, 1960

SSB Discussion of COSPAR Plan 11-14 Washington

I proposed a definitive international journal of space research, with simultaneous editions in English, Russian and perhaps one other language as the most dramatic thing that COSPAR could do to serve as a focus of international cooperation in space research. A number of practical objections to this of an obvious nature were raised but Porter will presumably bring it up at the next COSPAR meeting.

The present plans are for a meeting to be held in northern Italy between April 7-18. However, it is unlikely that I would be useful before the 14th when a session on "Space Biology" is contemplated; the COSPAR working groups are also meeting on the 17th and 18th. Salimsky apparently has been invited to serve as chairman of this session and one has to see what will happen there.

John Hagen is apparently still pressing for a large UN Conference on the Peaceful Exploration of Space that he thinks might be held in Geneva in September but this is probably unrealistic. The planning for this might well come up in April.

A number of us felt that COSPAR ought to attempt to coordinate its activities with other international congresses and only occasionally hold a large symposium of its own. For example, the Biochemistry Congress in Moscow at the end of August next year might be a good opportunity. Porter suggested that I look into this possibility and if it seems apt to write to him for his reactions to a informal proposal that can be made on behalf of Porter as the U.S. representative in COSPAR. The Microbiology Congress in Montreal in 1962 might be used for a similar purpose.

Among the scientific features that came up particularly in remarks by Freedman and Kellogg was a discussion of the need for a large scale synoptic survey by many rocket firings of the variation in the earth's atmosphere. The region between 100-200 kilometers is apparently the most sensitive. Both at this meeting and subsequently at the NASA PIP-4 (Dubin) I then raised the question of using the satelloid as the means of exploring this region on a global basis.